

Free
Whitson

The preventive war boys

Secretary of War Patterson and Secretary of Navy Forrestal have piously denied everything.

To the charge by Henry Wallace that a powerful military clique advocates a "preventive war," an atomic attack now on the Soviet Union, they reply with public surprise that they never heard of such a thing.

Tut, tut, gentlemen, you ought to read the newspapers.

High military and naval officials may not have said publicly in so many words that they favor war with the Soviet Union. But they have come pretty close to it.

Consider the case of Bulletin No. 11 issued by army headquarters in Korea under direct orders of Lieutenant General Hodge.

This order instructs officers in Korea to read William C. Bullitt's Readers Digest article which quite openly calls for atomic war on the Soviet Union.

Consider the case of that San Francisco press conference a few weeks ago by Admiral William H. P. Blandy who conducted the Bikini atom bomb test.

According to newspaper reports, Blandy said that he favored use of the atom bomb as an "offensive-defensive" weapon.

The doctrine of an "offensive-defensive" with the atom bomb certainly sounds to us like advocacy of a preventative war.

Consider the case of General Mark Clark who said earlier this week that the United States ought to use Austria as "a bridgehead in Eastern Europe."

You will excuse us, Secretaries Patterson and Forrestal, but the only point we can see in a "bridgehead in Eastern Europe" is for war against the Soviet Union.

Consider the case of Admiral William H. Standley who said that Wallace was "guilty of disloyalty" to the United States because he dared to advocate a course of friendship with the Soviet Union.

We could go on at some length, and all we know is what we get on ours news tickers and read in the newspapers.

We presume that Wallace knows much better than we what army and navy brass hats say in private.

It will be difficult for intelligent Americans to take the soft denials by Secretaries Patterson and Forrestal as either honest or credible.

There is in Washington today a powerful military clique which does advocate a "preventive war" against the Soviet Union. One of its most influential members, Admiral Leahy, sits at the right hand of the President as his chief of staff.

In fact, the removal of Henry Wallace as Secretary of Commerce signalizes the elevation to a dominant position of the war-now crowd in the War and Navy departments.

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